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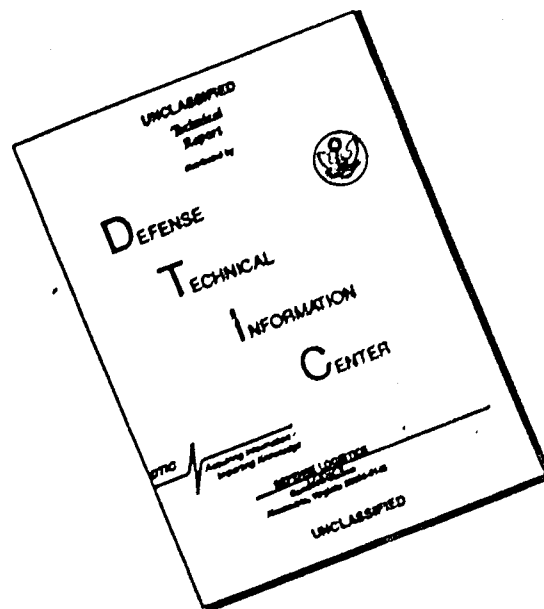
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (5 Oct 70)

FOR OT UT 702090

7 October 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 92d Engineer Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1970

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 92D ENGINEER BATTALION
APO 96491

EGBD-OP

14 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92D Engineer Battalion
(Construction), Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65(R2)

THRU: Commanding Officer, 159th Engineer Group, ATTN: EGB-OP, APO 96491
Commanding Officer, 20th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBI-COS, APO 96491
Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGG(DST), APO 96375
Commander In Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GCP-DT, APO 96588

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army
(ACSFOR DA) Washington D.C. 20310

Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

1. Command: LTC Beaufort C. Katt commanded the 92d Engineer Battalion during the reporting period.

a. The 92d Engineer Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company is organized under MTOE 5-116G, strength b; A Company under MTOE 5-117G, strength b; and Companies B, C, and D under MTOE 5-118G, strength b. The 41st Engineer Company (Port Construction) is organized under MTOE 5-129G, attached by 159th Engineer Group General Order Number 34, dated 18 December 1967. The 515th Engineer Platoon (Asphalt) is organized under MTOE 5-114D, paragraph 4, and was attached by 159th Engineer Group General Order 53, dated 31 October 1969. The 22d, 38th, 156th, 551st and 917th Engineer Detachments (Well Drilling) are organized under TOE 5-500C 57 w/c 22 and were released from attachment to the 169th Engineer Battalion and further attached to the 92d Engineer Battalion by the 159th Engineer Group General Order 10, dated 12 March 1970. Each detachment consists of 2 enlisted personnel (1 SP5 and 1 SP4) as authorized strength.

b. The mission of the battalion is to construct and rehabilitate roads, airfields, pipeline systems, structures and utilities, to assist emergency recovery operations, crush rock, produce ready-mix concrete, and to defend 2000 meters of the Long Binh Post Perimeter. The attached company has the missions of port construction and pier protective systems. The Asphalt Platoon operates an Asphalt Plant and the Well Drilling detachments drill wells.

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c. The 92nd Engineer Battalion AOR consists of portions the Phuoc Tuy, Bien Hoa and Gia Dinh Provinces.

d. Assignment: Refer to paragraph 1, subparagraph a.

e. Movements: Attachments and Detachments: Refer to Paragraph 1, subparagraph a.

f. The awards program has been highly emphasized and a total of 349 medals were presented during the reporting period.

2. Personnel, Morale and Discipline:

a. Personnel:

(1) Personnel Shortages: The following listed personnel shortages are considered critical and are, in effect, having a pronounced impact upon the construction and general production capability of the 92nd Engineer Battalion and its attached units, the 41st Engineer Company (Port Construction) and 515th Engineer Platoon (Asphalt).

(a) There are 23 structure specialists (51C30) and riggers (51C20) authorized, with six (6) assigned.

(b) There are 15 masons (51D20) authorized, and 5 assigned.

(c) The battalion has 17 plumbers (51K20) assigned with 45 authorized.

(d) Of the 16 surfacing equipment specialists (62D20) authorized, there are 9 assigned.

(e) The battalion has 50% of the authorized 26 quarry operators.

(f) There are 31 general construction machine operators (62J20) authorized, but only 14 assigned.

(g) There is a shortage of 20 of the 45 authorized wheel tractor operators (62L20) for a total of 25 assigned.

(h) Of the 23 construction machine supervisors (62N40) authorized, there are 18 assigned.

(i) Of the 46 construction foremen (51H40) authorized, there are 24 assigned.

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(2) The rotational rate of the 92d Engineer Battalion, to include the 41st Engineer Company (Port Construction); 515th Engineer Platoon (Asphalt); and the 22d, 38th, 156th, 551st, and 917th Engineer Detachments (WD), averaged 103 personnel per month. The average input into the Battalion, to include the attached units, is 84 personnel per month.

(3) All military personnel shortages (E-1 - E-6) are requisitioned each month by 20th Engineer Brigade. Military personnel shortages (E-7 - E-9) are requisitioned each month by the 159th Engineer Group Personnel Section on USARV Form 162, revised 29 May 1967. Efforts are continuing in the training of unskilled military (OJT) personnel in the critically needed skills.

(4) The battalion and attached units had a total of 252 gains and 310 losses in personnel during the reporting period. The forecast rotational rates are 5.1% for May, 9.2% for June and 7.9% for July.

(5) Personnel Strength Charts

(a) 28 February 1970

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OFF AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>WO AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>EM AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>TOTAL AUTH/ASG</u>
92nd	33/31	7/8	657/636	697/675
41st	9/8	1/1	171/160	181/169
515th	1/1	0/0	31/17	32/18

(b) 31 March 1970

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OFF AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>WO AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>EM AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>TOTAL AUTH/ASG</u>
92nd	33/32	7/8	657/631	697/671
41st	9/6	1/1	171/141	181/148
515th	1/1	0/0	31/25	32/26
22nd (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/3	2/3
38th (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2
156th (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/3	2/3
551st (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2
917th (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2

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(c) 30 April 1970

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OFF AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>WO AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>EM AUTH/ASG</u>	<u>TOTAL AUTH/ASG</u>
92nd	33/33	7/7	657/653	697/703
41st	9/7	1/1	171/152	181/161
515th	1/1	0/0	31/26	32/27
22nd	0/0	0/0	2/3	2/3
38th	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2.
156th (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2
551st (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2
917th (WD)	0/0	0/0	2/2	2/2

b. Morale: Morale has been excellent during the entire quarter. There were 98 foreign service tour extensions approved during the reporting period, 56 of these were for an additional six months. The battalion had 66% participation in the Savings Bond Program. During the reporting period 100 personnel participated in the Rest and Recuperation Program.

c. Discipline:

(1) Most disciplinary problems were resolved under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice. There were 112 Articles 15 administered, 0 Summary Courts-Martial, 0 Special Courts-Martial, and 0 General Courts-Martial.

(2) There was one Congressional Inquiry and eight IG Complaints during the period which were satisfactorily resolved locally.

d. Casualties

(1) There were two non-battle casualties during the reporting period resulting in both EM being reassigned to a Medical Holding Detachment.

(2) There were 12 battle casualties during the reporting period resulting in the death of one EM and the loss of 17 man-days.

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3. Intelligence:

a. During the past quarter, one (1) AK-47 was turned in by a Vietnamese National. This weapon was found within 30 meters of the bunker line. The individual was rewarded by Long Binh Post S-2 for his cooperation. Incidents such as this demonstrate the effectiveness of the Volunteer Informant Program.

b. Although enemy activity, in the area of our perimeter, has remained at a low level, subordinate units have been constantly adding new wire, trip flares, and making other improvements to the existing perimeter.

c. The following terrorist activities have occurred during the quarter:

(1) 232200 February 1970. Two (2) panels of an Eiffel bridge, being constructed by Company D, 92nd Engineer Battalion were damaged by demolitions. ARVN security guards were on duty to guard the bridge at the time of the incident.

(2) 250830 February 1970. A 2½ ton truck from Company D, 92nd Engineer Battalion hit a pressure type mine. Eight (8) United States Army personnel injured.

(3) Between 212400 February 1970 and 220600 February 1970. Two (2) panels of a 50 foot Eiffel bridge were destroyed by demolitions.

(4) 061630 April 1970. At 1630 hours, 6 April 1970, at ½ ton vehicle transporting three (3) United States personnel and one (1) ARVN interpreter hit a mine, estimated to be a 45 pound plastic charge. One (1) US Killed in Action, two (2) US wounded in action, one (1) ARVN Killed in Action. Two (2) Vietnamese standing along side the road were killed, as were two (2) wounded. Vehicle was completely demolished.

(5) 121500 April 1970. Personnel of Company D, 92nd Engineer Battalion unearthed a 105mm round, with two (2) plastic charges placed on top. Mine was blown in place.

(6) 041100 April 1970. Personnel from Company B, 92nd Engineer Battalion, while participating in a land clearing operation, detonated an artillery round with a D-7 dozer. It could not be determined whether the round was a mine, booby trap, or dud round. One (1) US wounded in action.

(7) 061130 April 1970. Personnel from Company B, 92nd Engineer Battalion, while participating in a land clearing operation, detonated an artillery round with a D-7 dozer. It could not be determined whether the round was a mine, booby trap, or a dud round. No casualties.

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4. Operations, Plans and Training:

a. Operations and projects completed during reporting period:

(1) Combat/Operational Support Missions Completed:

(a) 112-5493-0-20, Bridge Boat Support - 79th Group: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two 27' Bridge Erection Boats were used to support the 79th Bridge Provisional Company to assist in the construction of the Co Dau Ha Bridge. Project began 30 March 1970 and was completed 10 April 1970.

(b) 112-5494-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Engr Gp: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One 20 ton crane and one 250 CFM air compressor were provided to the 79th Engineer Group. Project began on 30 March 1970 and was completed on 1 April 1970.

(c) 207-6048-0-20, ASP Berm Construction, Bien Hoa: B Co, 92nd Engr Bn: A total of 1530 linear feet of twelve foot high earth berms and blast wall were constructed to provide five ammo storage areas. Berms were peneprimed to control erosion. This project began on 1 March 1970 and was completed on 10 April 1970.

(d) 207-6131-0-20, Engineer Support, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Provided one dozer, one lowboy, and one 5-ton dump with 80 pc 36" culvert. Project began on 4 February 1970 and was completed on 6 February 1970.

(e) 207-6141-0-20, Peneprime Bien Hoa Airfield: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: A 100 foot by 300 foot area was peneprimed at Bien Hoa Air Base. Project was started on 4 March 1970 and was completed on 8 March 1970.

(f) 207-6164-0-20, Repair POL Jetty, 1st LOG: 41st Engr Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Repaired POL Jetty by installing a new anchorage system. Project began 22 February 1970 and was completed on 25 February 1970.

(g) 207-6167-0-20, Defensive Positions Technical Assistance, Bien Hoa Army Base: S-3/92nd Engineer Battalion: 150 bunker positions were inspected and recommendations were made. Project was started on 27 February 1970 and was completed on 4 March 1970.

(h) 207-6168-0-20, Equipment Support, Bien Hoa: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Fields of Fire were cleared on the Bien Hoa Perimeter. Clearing began on 5 April 1970 and was completed on 6 April 1970.

(i) 207-6174-0-20, Construction of Ammo Storage Bunkers, Bien Hoa: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Protective berms were constructed around four ammo bunkers and two 20 foot by 20 foot holes were filled with laterite. Construction began on 24 March 1970 and was completed on 1 April 1970.

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(j) 207-6183-0-20, Blast Rock Support: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Three loads of blast rock were dumped into a ditchline 100 meters south of Bien Hoa Army Base. Project began on 2 March 1970 and was completed on the same day.

(k) 207-6217-0-20, Install Poles, 20th Engineer Brigade: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Four each 40 foot telephone poles were installed at Headquarters, 20th Engineer Brigade; two poles to serve as banner supports and two as lighting poles for volleyball court. This project was completed on 19 April 1970, following a starting date of 11 April 1970.

(l) 212-6041-0-20, Rock Issue to 65th Engineer Battalion: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 380 cubic yards of blast rock was issued against a scope of 1047 cubic yards. Project was terminated on 9 February 1970 by 20th Engineer Brigade message 3227-70.

(m) 212-6179-0-20, Asphalt Kettle Loan: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was terminated as the requirement no longer existed. Termination based on message from 20th Engineer Brigade dated 7 April 1970.

(n) 212-6197-0-20, Diver Support, 79th Group: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: The condition of damaged bridge piers was checked by divers in the vicinity of Go Dau Ha. Project began on 13 March 1970 and was completed on 14 March 1970.

(o) 217-6180-0-20, Operational Support, Lai Thieu: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two ammo storage pits were dozed and 300 meters of berm was raised by 18 inches. The center area on one range was also lowered. Project began on 2 March 1970 and was completed on 17 March 1970.

(p) 243-5839-0-20, Equipment Support, IIFV: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 150 cubic yards of laterite was hauled to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, IIFV. Project began on 15 August 1969 and was completed on 24 February 1970.

(q) 243-5873-0-20, Perimeter Upgrade, Long Binh Post (Exterior): B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Cleared approximately 400 acres of brush to improve fields of fire on Long Binh Post exterior. Subject project was started on 15 December 1970 and was finished 7 March 1970.

(r) 243-5898-0-20, Perimeter Berm Upgrade, Long Binh: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was terminated prior to start of construction. Notification received on 28 March 1970 by 20th Engineer Brigade message 3539-70.

(s) 243-6080-0-20, Ridgeline Clearing, Long Binh: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: 200 meters of brush was cleared beyond the perimeter from bunker #460 to bunker #466. Project started on 21 January 1970 and was completed on 1 February 1970.

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(t) 243-6081-0-20, Technical Assistance, USAIGC: 92nd Engineer Battalion:
Project was cancelled on 7 April 1970 by 20th Engineer Brigade message 3589-70.

(u) 243-6084-0-20, Long Binh Major Relay Revetments: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: The Long Binh Major Relay Facility was reveted using 500 linear feet of 10 foot high M8A1 soil bin revetment. Security wire was placed on top of the revetments and a 30 foot chain link fence was erected. To provide personnel and equipment access, five entrance gates were constructed. Construction dates were 3 March 1970 to 1 April 1970.

(v) 243-6114-0-20, Technical Assistance, Dong Nai POL Jetty: 92nd Engineer Battalion: Technical assistance was provided on three occasions prior to termination of the project on 21 March 1970 by 20th Engineer Brigade.

(w) 243-6128-0-20, Equipment Support: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two lowboys were provided to the 79th Engineer Group. Project began on 2 February 1970 and was completed on 4 February 1970.

(x) 243-6148-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Engineer Group: D Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Provided two each lowboys to the 62nd Engineer Battalion which is part of the 79th Group. Project began on 14 February 1970 and was completed on 16 February 1970.

(y) 243-6170-0-20, Interior Land Clearing, Long Binh Post: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Cleared approximately 60 acres of land behind General Officers Quarters, Long Binh. Project began on 25 February 1970 and was completed on 3 March 1970.

(z) 243-6175-0-20, Erection of MPPAS, Plantation: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One multiplate pipe arc shelter was erected for use as a Tactical Operations Center. Construction began on 20 March 1970 and was completed on 23 March 1970.

(aa) 243-6201-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Group: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Three ten-ton tractors were provided to the 62nd Engineer Battalion for use in an equipment move. Project began on 13 March 1970 and was completed on 17 March 1970.

(bb) 243-6204-0-20, Lowboy Support, 62nd Engineer Battalion: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two lowboys were furnished to the 62nd Engineer Battalion in an equipment move. The starting date was 15 March 1970 and it was completed on 16 March 1970.

(cc) 243-6213-0-20, Lowboy Support, 62nd Engineer Battalion: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One ten-ton tractor with trailer was provided to the 62nd Engineer Battalion to help in an equipment move. Project was started on 22 March 1970 and was finished on 25 March 1970.

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(dd) 243-6221-0-20, Land Clearing, Long Thanh District: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Approximately 120 acres of brush and vegetation was cleared in the vicinity of Long Thanh, Vietnam. Clearing began on 30 March 1970 and was finished on 6 April 1970.

(ee) 245-6086-0-20, Signal Site Revetments, Tan Son Nhut: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Constructed a 43 foot by 36 foot hardstand area by using MSAL matting. Also 176 feet of 6 foot high pre-cast concrete revetments were emplaced. Project began on 24 February 1970 and was completed on 3 March 1970.

(ff) 246-6102-0-20, Radar Tower, Fire Support Base Exodus: 92nd Engineer Battalion: Construction of the radar tower was cancelled when it was determined the requirement no longer existed. Notification was received on 6 March 1970 by 20th Engineer Brigade message 3124-70.

(gg) 246-6132-0-20, Mine Sweep, QL-15: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Cleared a 10 meter by 300 meter strip on each side of QL-15 in the vicinity of coordinates YS 215817. Project began on 22 February 1970 and was completed on 25 February 1970.

(hh) 246-6134-0-20, POL Berm Construction: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Three 40 foot by 40 foot by 4 foot high POL retaining berms were constructed at Camp Martin Cox. Project began on 16 February 1970 and was completed on 18 February 1970.

(ii) 246-6147-0-20, Equipment Support, RTAVF: 41st Engr Co, (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: One dozer was provided to construct a fire support base near Binh Son in the vicinity of coordinates YS 282933. Project was started on 15 February 1970 and completed on 24 February 1970.

(jj) 246-6166-0-20, Equipment Support: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Provided 3 dump trucks, 1-D7 dozer, 1 front loader, and 1 sheepsfoot roller with 1 NCOIC to prepare an access ramp at Bearcat. Also provided a six-man escort for 3-1500KW generators to Tan Son Nhut. Project began on 22 February 1970 and was completed on 26 February 1970.

(kk) 273-5962-0-20, Diver Support, Nha Be: 92nd Engineer Battalion: Project was terminated on 6 March 1970 upon receipt of 20th Engineer Brigade message 3393-70. No effort had been expended.

(ll) 273-6044-0-20, Clear Suspected Minefield: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was cancelled by 159th Engineer Group on 3 February 1970. No work was done.

(mm) 273-6150-0-20, Engineer Support to USAID: D Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One mine sweep team was provided to assist in steel recovery in the vicinity of coordinates XS 825929. The team came up with negative results. Project was started and completed on 21 March 1970.

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(nn) 275-6105-0-20, Rock Issue to 79th Engineer Group: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was cancelled on 28 February 1970 before any work was accomplished.

(oo) 275-6265-0-20, Bridge Boat Support, 79th Engineer Group: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Provided one 27 foot bridge erection boat for three days to the 79th Engineer Group. Project began on 24 April 1970 and ended on 27 April 1970.

(pp) 291-5559-0-20, Bridge Security Maintenance, Dong Nai PPS: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Repairs were made on the existing pier protecting system. Eight fender systems were then constructed to protect the pier protective system from river traffic. Project was started on 1 December 1969 and completed on 24 March 1970.

(qq) 290-6062-0-20, Operational Support for Aviation Units: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Subject project has a classified scope. It was started on 24 December 1969 and completed on 7 March 1970.

(rr) 291-6984-0-20, Lowboy Support, 79th Group: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two ten-ton tractors with trailers and one ten-ton bobtail were provided to assist the 62nd Engineer Battalion in an equipment move. Project began on 4 March 1970 and was finished on 8 March 1970.

(ss) 291-6224-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Engineer Group: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Three ten ton tractors with trailers were provided to the 79th Engineer Group to assist in an equipment move. Project began on 1 April 1970 and was completed on 5 April 1970.

(tt) 291-6233-0-20, Equipment Support, 62nd Engineer Battalion: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Three ten-ton tractors with trailers were provided to the 62nd Engineer Battalion to assist them in an equipment move. Project was started on 1 April 1970 and completed on 5 April 1970.

(uu) 291-6256-0-20, Lowboy Support, 79th Engineer Group: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One 10 ton tractor with trailer was provided to support the 79th Engineer Group. Project began on 19 April 1970 and ended on 24 April 1970.

(2) MER Project Completed: None

(3) MACV Support Projects Completed:

(a) 807-0302-0-01, MACV Advisory Facilities, Duc Tu: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: A 20 foot by 60 foot concrete block building providing billets, mess hall, covered storage and administration facilities was constructed. An electrical distribution system, and waterborne sewage system were also provided. Project began on 11 November 1969 and was completed on 19 April 1970.

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(b) 887-0303-0-01, MACV Advisory Facilities, Vung Tau: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: A concrete block building was constructed for advisory living quarters. Project includes waterborne sewage, running water, a maintenance building, administrative space, a messhall, latrine; and electrical distribution. Project began on 1 March 1970 and was completed on 30 April 1970.

(c) 887-0306-0-01, MACV Baria Electrical Upgrade: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was terminated on 3 February 1970 VOCO 159th Engineer Group.

(4) BACON Projects Completed:

(a) 73-242-05, Fendering System Rehab, Newport: 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was terminated and replaced by operational support mission of same scope. Terminated on 7 April 1970 by USAECV letter dated 30 March 1970.

(b) 546-0305-0-01, Aircraft Maintenance Facility, Long Thanh North: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One maintenance hanger with electrical distribution was dismantled at Vung Tau, moved to Long Thanh North and reconstructed. Electrical distribution was provided to all revetments and four POL berms were constructed. Project began on 22 February 1970 and was completed on 10 March 1970.

(c) 573-0306-0-01, Repair LST Ramps, Newport Docks: 41st Engr Co, (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Decking on the LST ramps at Newport was accomplished by self-help labor with materials and technical assistance furnished by the 41st Engineer Company (Port Construction). Work began on 9 January 1970 and was finished on 14 March 1970.

(5) Material Issue Projects Completed:

(a) 773-5301-0-20, Rock Issue, CMAC: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 1000 cubic meter of 1 1/2"(-) aggregate was issued to CMAC on an as-available basis. Project began on 12 December 1969 and was finished on 31 March 1970.

(b) 773-5303-0-20, Rock Issue, 5th ARVN Group: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 100 cubic yards of 3/4"(-) was issued to the 5th ARVN Group. Project began on 1 January 1970 and was completed on 31 March 1970.

(c) 573-0313-0-01, Equipment Support, Vinnell Corporation: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Supported Vinnell Corporation by providing one entrencher for two weeks. Entrencher reported to Saigon on 11 April 1970 and returned on 24 April 1970.

(6) LOC Projects Completed:

(a) 417-5302-0-20, Installation of Crusher: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: One cone crusher and ancillary facility were installed at Black Diamond Industrial Site. Construction began on 30 September 1969 and was completed on 23 March 1970.

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b. Operations/Projects Active at End of Reporting Period:

(1) Operational Support Missions Active:

(a) 05-159-68-247c, Pier Protective Systems, Rach Cat - Cau Canh Bridges:
41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Scope - classified; 64% complete.
Project began 18 May 1969 by the 497th Engineer Company (PC) and was transferred to the 41st Engineer Company (PC) when the 497th Engineer Company was transferred to the 18 Engineer Brigade.

(b) 207-6225-0-20, Castle Halipad Upgrade: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion:
Initial horizontal effort has been accomplished on the site. No further work will be done until completion of 289-6259-0-20. Project began on 17 April 1970 and is now 4% complete.

(c) 212-6222-0-20, Lighting Equipment Support, 79th Engineer Group:
B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: A platoon lighting set is being furnished for a period of approximately 30 days. Project began on 30 March 1970 and is 95% complete.

(d) 243-5729-2-23, Maintenance of Base Camp Perimeter, Long Binh Post:
92nd Engineer Battalion: Concertina was reinforced with 510 reels of barbed tape. Four bunkers were built and 95 trip flares replaced. Project is continuous.

(e) 243-5732-0-20, Maintenance of Base Camp Perimeter, Black Diamond Industrial Site: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Concertina was strung and three fighting bunkers were constructed. Work was also accomplished on the perimeter lighting system. Project is continuous.

(f) 243-6091-0-20, Phu Long Bridge Pier Protective System: 41st Engr Co (PC), 92nd Engineer Battalion: Existing pier protective system was salvaged and a new floating collar system has been installed on Piers "B", "C", and "D". The system consists of a floating steel collar supported by aluminum spheres with chainlink attached to the collar. The interior of the collar is then filled with concertina. Project is 82% complete. Construction began on 15 February 1970 and is scheduled to be completed on 11 May 1970.

(g) 246-6262-0-20, Revetments, Long Thanh North: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Prefabrication of M8A1 panels has begun, and will be transported to Long Thanh North for erection upon completion. Project consists of constructing 9 each revetments for fixed wing aircraft. It is now 4% complete. Construction began on 22 April 1970 and is scheduled to be complete on 31 May 1970.

(h) 289-6259-0-20, Road Upgrade, FSB Colorado: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: This project was started on 24 April 1970 and mobilization has been completed. Construction is in its initial phases and is 9% complete. Completion is scheduled for 31 May 1970.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92nd Engineer Battalion
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(e) 443-5311-0-20, Operation and Maintenance of Concrete Batch Plant, Long Binh: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 3595 cubic yards of concrete were produced during this period. This project is a continuous operation.

(5) Revolutionary Development Support Active: 707-5302-0-20, Hot Mix Issue, Bien Hoa Province: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 602 tons of asphalt were issued during this period. Project began 21 February 1970 and is now 40% complete.

c. Engineer Plans: None

d. Plant Operations: Refer to paragraph 4b(4).

e. Training:

(1) During the past quarter, twenty-two ARVN soldiers were trained as mechanics through "Project Buddy". The success achieved by this program was due in large to the interest displayed by the trainees and the long hours which they worked. In addition, five (5) Vietnamese civilian drilling machine operators and thirty-six (36) truck drivers were trained.

(2) The battalion training section supervised and assisted in the orderly execution of the required training for the battalion during the past quarter. One aspect of this training was to insure that at least once monthly all personnel fired their individual weapons, and that all bunker guards fired the crew-served weapons. The training program received an overall "excellent" rating during the semi-annual inspection conducted by 159th Engineer Group in April 1970.

5. Logistics:

a. Construction Materials:

(1) The transition of FSC/FSN's from ECMY (Engineer Construction Material Yard) to USADLB (U.S. Army Depot, Long Binh) has caused serious delays, and in some instances, inability to submit requisitions for needed material. This situation occurred when ECMY dropped certain FSC/FSN's from their inventories before USADLB showed zero balance or no record of the item. This situation has been discussed with representatives of ADLB who are aware of the problem. However, the only recourse presently available to obtain critical selected construction items is to hand-carry requisitions to stock control, physically locate the material and then inform stock control so they can release the item.

(2) Another problem area resulting from this transaction was that certain FSN's have been labeled as repair parts, when actually they are utilized as a construction material and should be available through the construction material channels. Examples are: electrical toggle switches, certain types of electrical wire, and duplex receptacles. This action has also caused serious delays and uncertainty in obtaining needed materials.

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(2) MACV Projects Active:

(a) 887-0304-0-01, MACV Advisory Facilities, Can Gio: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: MACV advisory facilities are being constructed with materials supplied by this unit utilizing self-help labor. Project began on 8 February 1970 and is now 6% complete.

(b) 887-0305-0-01, MACV Advisory Facilities, Quang Xuyen: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: MACV advisory facilities are being constructed with materials supplied by this unit utilizing self-help labor. Project was begun on 2 February 1970 and is now 6% complete.

(3) BACON Projects Active:

(a) 543-0313-0-20, MCA/LOC Support Activity, Long Binh: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Project consists of erection of two 40 foot by 96 foot buildings with electrical distribution and interior fixtures. The exterior of one building has been completed and the pad has been poured for the second building. The project is 43% complete.

(b) 546-0302-0-01, Aviation Support Facilities, Long Thanh North: B Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Two 20 ton cranes are being provided on an as available basis to assist in self-help construction. Project began on 10 April 1970 and is 2% complete.

(c) 707-5301-0-20, Rock Issue, Bien Hoa Province Public Works: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: No rock has been issued. Project is continuous.

(4) Construction Support Projects Active:

(a) 417-5201-0-20, Installation of Asphalt Plant: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: No work has been accomplished during this period. Project is 99% complete.

(b) 417-5303-0-20, Operation and maintenance of Black Diamond Industrial Site: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: 62,345 cubic yards of crushed rock and 54,760 tons of asphalt were produced during this period. This project is a continuous operation.

(c) 417-5205-0-20, Base Camp Maintenance, Black Diamond Industrial Site: C Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Work was accomplished on a drainage ditch for the rock crusher. Showers were also constructed and billets were upgraded. Project is continuous.

(d) 443-5310-0-20, Concrete Batch Plant, Long Binh Post: A Co, 92nd Engineer Battalion: Water well is being drilled, however thus far no sufficient water source has been found. Project began on 12 October 1969 and is presently 50% complete.

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b. Contract hauls by civilian contractors have been very useful. Approximately 95% of all cement and bitumen used in the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction) have been received by this method during this period.

c. Due to a shortage of Bentonite clay at USADLB, 180 bags were purchased from RMK (a civilian contractor) to aid in the well drilling activities of the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction).

d. Mineral products produced during the quarter by the 92nd Engineer Battalion at the Black Diamond Industrial Site totaled 62,345 Cubic Yards of crushed rock and 54,760 tons of asphalt. 3,595 cubic yards of concrete were produced by the battalion concrete batch plant, utilizing sand purchased from RMK. Sand purchase amounted to 2,180 cubic yards.

e. TO&E Equipment: Although the CCIL (Commander's Critical Items List) Program has aided greatly in reducing the shortage of essential equipment, the battalion still lacks needed items. Current shortages are: 12-25 ton lowbeds, 4-3/4 ton cargo trucks, 1-60 ton semi-trailer, 2-sheepsfoot rollers, 2-1000 gallon water distributors, 17 chain saws, 4-300 Amp welders, and 3-7 1/2 to 50 ton rollers.

f. The MCA/LOC Program continued to aid the 92nd Engineer Battalion as well as other battalion's in the performance of their mission. Present equipment on hand is as follows: 1-concrete bucket, 4-600CFM air compressors, 1-hydracone crusher, 4-pneumatic rock drills, 2-scoop loaders, 1-concrete batch plant, 1-sharpening and treading machine, 6-transit mixers, 3-tampers, 1-375 Amp welder, and 1-600 Amp welder.

g. RVNAF Program continued to progress smoothly. Phase Four of the program was completed with the transfer of seven (7) items of equipment.

h. Maintenance:

(1) Great difficulty has been experienced with MCA/LOC contract maintenance. There have been long delays for routine service due to lack of shop stock and repair parts at the Dynalectron maintenance shop. This situation should improve since the concrete batch plant and transit mix trucks are now being maintained by a separate team assigned to this battalion instead of the rebuild shop.

(2) A shortage of repair parts for low density engineer equipment continues to hamper operations in the battalion and its attached units. In-country depots do not have sufficient stock of repair parts for Euclid dump trucks, Pioneer 225 ton/hour crushers, GMC industrial power units, Chicago Pneumatic Rock Drills, Buda Winches and 40 ton P&H cranes. Increasing the problem, depot records are not reflecting repair parts demands when the items are requisitioned through Red Ball. Therefore no demand history is being collected to support stockage of required items. This discrepancy has been discussed with personnel in the Red Ball section and Stock Control section of Long Binh Depot, but with little success. Every effort is being made at the battalion level to insure that all Red Ball requisitions are recorded on the demand file of the authorized stockage list.

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EGBD-QP

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction), Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65(R2)

6. **Force Development:** Headquarters Company, Company A, Company B, and the 41st Engineer Company (Port Construction) were located at Long Binh, Vietnam throughout the past quarter. Company D was relocated to Saigon in early February and remained there through the end of the Quarter. Company C and the 515th Asphalt Platoon remained at Black Diamond Industrial Site, eight kilometers northwest of Long Binh, Vietnam, throughout the reporting period.

7. **Command Management:** None

8. **Inspector General Activities:** No inspection was conducted during this quarter.

9. **PIO:** There were 382 hometown news releases and 31 feature stories submitted during the reporting period.

10. **Civic Action:**

a. During the reporting period the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction) aided the Vietnamese people through more than 1,000 Medcaps, and contributions of scrap and excess materials. With the Vietnamese people contributing 75-80% on a self-help basis, the civic actions program was greatly enhanced during the previous quarter.

b. During the past quarter, Company D has been working on tactical roads in the Binh Chanh District, Gia Dinh Province. Recently, numerous casualties have occurred due to road mining incidents. As a counter to this, the battalion presently has on order 150,000 leaflets and 5,000 posters from the 6th PSYOPS Battalion, Bien Hoa Air Force Base. While depicting the benefits of these tactical roads to the Vietnamese people when completed, these leaflets and posters also reiterate the damage caused to property and harm to the individuals by the Viet Cong. It is hoped that information concerning road mining incidents and destruction of vital bridge work will be a favorable result of this program. The Battalion S-2 is currently the custodian of funds pertaining to the Volunteer Informant Program. These funds will be paid to Vietnamese in accordance with MACV Directive 381-2 for useful information.

**Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's
Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.**

1. **Personnel:** None

2. **Intelligence:** None

3. **Operations:**

a. **Development of a Porta-Batch Plant**

ECED-OP

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92nd Engineer Battalion (Construction), Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65(R2)

(1) Observations:

(a) This unit was assigned a concrete batch plant and five 6-cubic yard transit trucks. However, scheduled servicing and maintenance problems limited the number available each day to three or four.

(b) The haul distances to the LOC Restoration projects limited, in many cases, the number of round trips per day, and therefore the amount of concrete actually placed. This situation left the concrete batch plant idle 90% of the time. As construction effort progressed haul distances increased.

(c) As no augmentation of transit mix haul capability appeared likely, it became imminently necessary to either revert to local hauls with the trucks, or find a means to increase the output on LOC projects through use of less critical equipment. Based on the existing centralized location of the concrete batch plant, movement, while decreasing some haul distances would have increased others.

(2) Evaluation: One solution to the problem was:

(a) To increase production at the job site, it was necessary to determine a means of transporting the sand, gravel, and cement other than by transit mix truck. Company A's dump truck platoon with Vietnamese drivers provided the answer; 5-ton dump trucks with water tight covers shuttle the materials between the batch plant and a centralized location near the project site.

(b) As the chute opening in a transit mix truck is approximately ten feet above the ground level, the next problem became how to move the dry mix from dump truck to transit truck. Utilizing lessons learned from the operations at the crusher site, Company A obtained a 5-cubic yard bin and a 30 foot conveyor.

(c) The only additional components required were a water source for the concrete and a 10KW generator to operate the conveyor. By utilizing these two components with a 5-foot high ramp, the porta-batch plant became a reality. The dump truck backed up the ramp and dumped its dry mix into the bin. From the bin, the conveyor carried the mix to the transit mix truck chute. Therefore the haul distance of the transit mix trucks was only from the porta-batcher to the job site.

(d) In actual operation, depending upon the haul distance from the porta-batch plant to the job site, three to four dump trucks are needed to support one transit mix truck. It has been shown that use of a porta-batch plant increases concrete production by 300-400% under normal operating conditions.

(3) Recommendations: The porta-batch plant has proven to be of definite value in enabling this battalion to meet its commitments for ready-mix concrete.

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b. Use of 12-inch POL pipe

(1) Observations:

(a) 12" culvert had been used for splicing two sections of timber pile together. The first section was driven into the river bed by the pile driver; the second section was then spliced to it and driven. Two problems with the culvert was that it had to be pre-assembled, and that it did not make as strong a splice as desired, often bending and splitting open.

(b) In the area south of Saigon, water levels in the rice paddies are controlled across roads by use of twelve inch equalizer pipes underneath the road. When the roads were widened to conform to Class 12 requirements, these equalizer pipes were too short and had to be replaced. This was previously done with 12" culvert but this culvert had to be assembled and required a minimum of 12" backfill on top of the culvert. This required vertical effort which detracted from work on bridges and delayed progress on the tactical road program.

(2) Evaluations:

(a) Several sections of excess 12" POL pipe were obtained and through practice found that when cut into four foot sections, it made an excellent splice connector for timber piles. The average diameter of the piles was 11" - 11½" and the pipe formed a very strong splice. It was a quick, simple process to attach the pipe to the piles with 8-10 spike nails. This was especially important as the splice had to be made over the water, and this made normal efforts more difficult. The only preparatory time required for the 12" POL pipe splice connectors was a few minutes with a cutting torch.

(b) Noting the replacement of culvert by POL pipe for splicing, it was decided to try POL pipe for use as equalizer pipes under the roads. This proved to be very successful due to the ease of installation and served to reduce the manhours required to install the numerous equalizers.

(3) Recommendations: The use of 12" POL pipe has proven to be decidedly superior to the use of 12" culvert in accomplishing two separate tasks on the tactical road construction.

c. Utilization of "Bad Load" Asphalt

(1) Observations:

(a) Occasionally, batches of poor quality asphalt are produced at the Black Diamond Asphalt Plant due to low or excessive temperatures of the aggregate or the quantity of bitumen in the mix. As this asphalt cannot be utilized for paving operations it was stockpiled on site at the asphalt plant. There was no use for this material and it was a wasted product.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92nd Engineer Battalion
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(b) Company D was constructing a road in a low, swampy area. Due to the general wetness of the area, laterite and other similar substances quickly became saturated and was not completely effective as a base material. The base material had to retain its form, and be able to accept compaction without being decomposed by the surrounding water. Rock, although acceptable, was not available due to higher priority requirements.

(2) Evaluation: On a trial basis, several cubic yards of "bad load" asphalt were placed in the road base. This provided a stable sub-base, and it was possible to complete the road using the standard laterite cap. This process has been repeated with good results in several low-lying areas and has markedly aided the horizontal construction progress on the tactical roads.

(3) Recommendation: When available, "bad load" asphalt can be productively utilized to provide a stable sub-base when constructing roads in swampy areas.

- 4. Organization: None
- 5. Training: None
- 6. Logistics: None
- 7. Communications: None
- 8. Materials: None
- 9. Other: None


BEAUFORT D. KATT
LTC, CE
Commanding

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EGB-CO (14 May 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 92nd Engineer Battalion
(Construction), Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65(R2)

DA, HQ, 159th Engineer Group, APO 96491 21 May 1970

TO: Commanding Officer, 20th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBI-OS, APO 96491

1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.
2. Comments are made on the following paragraphs:

a. Section I, paragraph 5a: Although delays have occurred in obtaining construction materials, these delays are not serious enough to affect mission accomplishment.

b. Section I, paragraph 5h(2): Coordination with higher headquarters and redefinition of responsibilities are beginning to eliminate this problem area.


J. K. BRATTON
COL, CE
Commanding

CF:
CO, 92nd Engr Bn

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AVBI-OS (14 May 70) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 92nd Engineer Battalion
(Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65
(R2)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO 96491 14 JUN 1970

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.
2. This headquarters concurs with the submitted report with the comments contained in the 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

DL McBride

D. L. MC BRIDE
1LT, CE
Assistant Adjutant

Copies Furnished:
CO, 159th Engr Gp
CO, 92nd Engr Bn

AVHGC-DST (14 May 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92d Engineer Battalion
(Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65
(R2)

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 4 JUL 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 92d Engineer Battalion and the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Construction Materials", page 14.

(1) Para 5, a(1): Concur. The initial problems of inventory and expansion of ADP and Stock Control operations have been solved at USAD, Long Binh. Operations for Engineer Construction Material Yard stock are now back to normal. Hand-carry requisitions for routine transactions are no longer necessary or authorized. Unit has been so advised.

(2) Para 5, a(2): Nonconcur. The merger of ECMY and Depot storage activities has created the necessity for some procedural changes. The actual location of a particular FSN/FSC within the depot has little or no effect on the ability of the depot to promptly issue the stock in accordance with the priority of the requisition. Recommend closer liaison with the supporting DSU on future problems. Unit has been so advised.

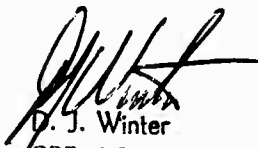
b. Reference item concerning "MCA LOC Contract Maintenance", page 15, paragraph 5h(1). Concur. The MCA LOC commercial engineer equipment is maintained by a Contractor, Dynalelectron Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas. An ASL basic stockage of repair parts for this equipment was prepared and requisitioned through USAEMECOM; the equipment has been in use more than a year, but approximately 40% of the ASL has not been received. Repair parts for deadlined MCA LOC equipment is ordered by the Contractor by telephone/letter to the Fort Worth Office. Contract maintenance teams are assigned throughout the command contingent on equipment density. Repair parts and maintenance support is improving. Unit has been so advised.

c. Reference item concerning "Shortages of Repair Parts for Low Density Engineer Equipment," page 15, paragraph 5h(2). Nonconcur. There is definitely a shortage of repair parts for low density, engineer equipment which does hamper operations in the battalion and its attached units.

AVHGC-DST (14 May 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 92d Engineer Battalion
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(R2)

A visit to depots and the inventory control center reveal that demand history at the DSU may be used to verify the depot demand data collection. Department of the Army is presently reviewing NORS reports for key mission essential equipment weekly to improve the operational readiness. Projects IME and IMG were initiated to increase the repair parts stockage to improve support of key mission essential equipment. To date, approximately 90% of the IME parts and 50% of the IMG parts have been received. Department of the Army recently initiated a special Red Ball system to improve delivery of deadline repair parts for Line of Communications construction equipment. Recommend that Department of the Army continue to monitor NORS reports weekly to further improve repair parts support of Key Mission essential equipment. Unit has been so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


D. J. Winter
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

CF:
HQ, 92d Engr Bn
HQ, 20th Engr Bde

GPOP-DT (14 May 70) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 92d Engineer Battalion (Const) for
Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)


HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

20 JUL 70

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


D.D. CLINE
2LT, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) HQ DA, OACSFOR, Washington, D.C. 20310		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
		2b. GROUP	
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 92d Engineer Battalion			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations 1 Feb to 30 Apr 70.			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 92d Engineer Battalion			
6. REPORT DATE 14 May 1970		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 27	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 702090	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
c.			
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY DA, OACSFOR, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			